

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. By way of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1-3, 5-11 and 21 are currently pending.

The drawings stand objected to because the reference number "50" is not shown in Figures 6 or 7 as suggested by the specification on page 5, line 16. Upon review of the specification and drawings, it is seen that reference number 50 in Figures 1 and 2 refers to a stirrup portion of a line support according to exemplary embodiments of the present invention. A stirrup 150 is also illustrated in Figures 6 and 7. In order to clarify the specification on this point, the foregoing amendments distinguish between the stirrup 50 as shown in Figures 1 and 2 and stirrup 150 as shown in Figures 6 and 7. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the specification remove the need for any changes to the drawings.

The specification has been objected to for various informalities pointed out on page 3 of the Official Action. By way of the foregoing amendments to the specification, each of the specific points raised by the Examiner has been addressed. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the specification are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 11-14 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,834,327 to Byrne. Applicant notes, with appreciation, that dependent Claims 4-10 and 15-19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but otherwise containing allowable subject matter. By way of the foregoing amendments, Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent Claim 4. Dependent Claims 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10 have been amended into independent form. Claims 12-20 have been canceled. However, new dependent Claim 21 has been added to indicate that Claim 1 is generic to, among other things, whether the first and second members of the line support are secured together by, e.g., a mechanical fastener or by, e.g., being formed as a unitary body.

By way of the foregoing amendments, all of the independent claims which are currently pending contain subject matter which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, this application is now in condition for immediate allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should, however, the Examiner have any questions regarding the foregoing, she is urged to contact the undersigned at (540) 361-1863.

Respectfully submitted,

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